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Agenda item 155
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's report entitled "*Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*" (A/58/347). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General's progress report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 57/24 of 19 November 2002, in which the Assembly took note of paragraph 57 of the Secretary-General's report A/57/370, commending his efforts to reduce the backlog in the publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, and endorsed his efforts to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*.

3. Paragraphs 2 to 13 of the report (A/58/347) provide information on the steps undertaken to expedite the preparation of supplements to the *Repertory*, and paragraphs 14 to 33 summarize the status of the *Repertory*. The Committee notes, among the alternative courses of action discussed, that the possibility of partnerships with academia was considered. However, as indicated in paragraph 10 of the report, it should be noted that while some academic institutions expressed readiness to cooperate through internship programmes, they stressed their inability to take over the preparation of the *Repertory*.

4. Paragraph 13 of the report indicated that it was the view of the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter *Repertory* that further elaboration of possible courses of action would need to await the decision of the General Assembly on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

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5. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes the information provided in paragraphs 34 and 35 of the report, which relates to the assessment of action required. However, at the time when the Advisory Committee was considering the Secretary-General's report (A/58/347), it was informed that the Sixth Committee was discussing the issue of the *Repertory* and working on a related draft resolution. **The Advisory Committee recalls that any decision of the General Assembly that entails financial requirements is subject to the provision of a statement of programme budget implications and its consideration by the Fifth Committee, which will make the appropriate recommendation.**

6. Paragraphs 36 to 41 of the report refer to the status of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and the preparation of future supplements to the *Repertoire*. The Advisory Committee notes the contributions provided to date and the indication that additional contributions are needed, including assistance by associate experts, to maintain the temporary team at the current level and complete the work of the twelfth Supplement in a timely manner and bring the *Repertoire* up to date. The Committee was informed that associate experts are type I gratis personnel sponsored by Governments under the established volunteer programme for technical cooperation.

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Agenda item 161
Financing of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire

Proposed budget for the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 13 May 2003 to 30 June 2004

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) for the period from 13 May 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/58/370). During its consideration of the matter, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. In its resolution 1479 (2003) of 13 May 2003, the Security Council established MINUCI for an initial period of six months, with a mandate to facilitate the implementation by the Ivorian parties of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement (S/2003/99, annex I). The Advisory Committee understands that the Security Council has communicated to the Secretary-General its understanding that MINUCI should be characterized as a special political mission.

3. The proposed budget for the Mission for the period from 13 May 2003 to 30 June 2004 amounts to $29,881,700, comprising expenditures for the period from 13 May to 30 June 2003 of $1,009,700 and cost estimates for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 of $28,872,000. The budget provides for the phased deployment of 76 military liaison officers, 69 international staff, 81 national staff and 7 United Nations Volunteers (see A/58/370, summary). The Secretary-General reported that the Mission would establish its headquarters in Abidjan and would deploy military and civilian personnel to eight team sites throughout the country (see S/2003/801, paras. 21-24). The Committee was informed that the status-of-mission agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire had been signed on 18 September 2003.

4. The Advisory Committee was provided with a detailed organization chart of the Mission, showing reporting lines, functional titles and the number and levels of posts for each unit. **The Committee is of the view that there are too many**

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organizational units in the Mission, and some have not been adequately justified in terms of the number and levels of the proposed posts. The Committee urges the Mission to re-examine its structure, with a view to rationalizing it by consolidating some units and revising grade levels. For example, the Committee believes that the Political Affairs Office (1 D-1, 1 P-4 and 3 P-3) posts could be merged with the Civil Affairs Office (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 United Nations Volunteers, 1 General Service and 1 national staff) posts (see A/58/370, paras. 11 and 16, and annex I). Furthermore, in the Division of Administration, the proposed post levels for heads of units are higher than what the Committee believes is justified in terms of the responsibilities described in the budget proposal (e.g., the Buildings Management and Engineering Section and the Supply Section), and some of the units could be rationalized and merged.

5. **The Advisory Committee also recommends that further efforts be made to use more national staff and United Nations Volunteers in the operations of MINUCI in line with its previous recommendation (A/57/772, para. 80, and A/55/874, paras. 43-45).**

6. The Advisory Committee welcomes the streamlined presentation of the Mission's objectives, grouped by component in the results-based-budget framework, as shown in Section I of the document. The Committee notes the key outputs that will contribute to the Mission's expected accomplishments and the indicators of achievement that have been selected to progress towards those accomplishments. **The Committee believes that the formulation of indicators of achievement should be further refined (e.g., indicators of achievement for air-safety incidents, under component 3, Support, are questionable). Moreover, the Committee emphasizes that the streamlined results-based-budget presentation of the document should not compromise the full justification of the resources requested. In this connection, the Committee believes that further efforts should be made to fully justify resources and to link them to the mandate implementation plan.**

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that the implementation plan for MINUCI foresees a limited implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement for the period 2003 (see S/2003/801, paras. 8-19). The full implementation of the Agreement, the Committee understands, would require a much higher level of resources than what has been requested for MINUCI in the proposed budget. Upon request, the Committee was informed that the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on Côte d'Ivoire (S/2003/374 and Corr.1) and on MINUCI (S/2003/801) had foreseen the successful holding of presidential and legislative elections in the second half of 2005. However, the future size, scale and scope of the Mission, as well as the level of resources that may be required prior to this goal being achieved, cannot be ascertained at this point. This will be determined by developments on the ground, including changes in the political and strategic situation in the country.

8. Under component 1, Substantive civilian, of its results-based-budget framework, the Mission's expected accomplishments include "improved humanitarian conditions and increased respect for human rights in Côte d'Ivoire". In furtherance of this objective, the Mission proposes to establish a Human Rights Office headed by a senior human rights officer (P-5) and including 11human rights officers (2 P-4, 5 P-3 and 4 United Nations Volunteers), an administrative assistant (Field Service) and two clerks/language assistants (national staff) (A/58/370, para. 15).

9. The Advisory Committee notes from the report of the Secretary-General on MINUCI (S/2003/801, paras. 29-30) that the Mission's activities relating to human rights will be primarily to facilitate and provide assistance in the implementation of human rights-related provisions of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, as well as to monitor and report on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, with specific attention to the rights of women and children, including child combatants. Other entities of the United Nations working towards the same objectives in Côte d'Ivoire include the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). **The Committee trusts that there will be close cooperation and coordination with OHCHR and special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights so as to avoid the potential for overlapping responsibilities and duplication of efforts and resources. The Committee recommends that OHCHR act as the lead agency of the United Nations for human rights activities in Côte d'Ivoire.**

10. A provision of $2.5 million is requested for two aircraft (1 medium MI-8 passenger-cargo helicopter and 1 light passenger B-200 aircraft) to provide for the transport of personnel and materials in the interior of the country and for medical and casualty evacuation (A/58/370, para. 43). **In this connection, the Advisory Committee trusts that the views expressed in its report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/57/772, para. 108), including the configuration and planned utilization of air assets, will be fully taken into account.**

11. The Advisory Committee notes that, based on the established ratios for military and civilian personnel, a provision of $1.6 million is requested for the acquisition of various items of information technology equipment, spare parts and supplies, software and related licences and fees and information technology services. The Mission would install, operate and maintain 141 desktop and 52 laptop computers linked by conventional and wireless wide and local area networks. The provision for information technology also includes an amount of $326,100 for the replacement in Brindisi of equipment transferred from the strategic deployment stocks (A/58/370, para. 45). The Committee was provided with detailed information on the ratios of information technology equipment to military and civilian personnel and on the items and costs of information technology equipment transferred from the strategic deployment stocks, including portable "ruggedized" laptop computers built to withstand shock, drops, accidental liquid spills and other hazards. **The Committee trusts that the actual quantities of information technology equipment to be used will be commensurate with the needs of the Mission. In this regard, the Committee trusts that its previous observations on information technology issues (see A/57/772, para. 106) will be taken into account.**

12. The Advisory Committee was provided with detailed information on training requirements for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. The estimated costs for training amount to $138,300 for training in information and communication technology ($40,400), ground transportation ($13,000), public information seminars ($78,600) and financial procedures ($6,300). These amounts are for training-related travel, in addition to $21,000 for fees and services budgeted for under "other supplies, services, and equipment" **(see the Advisory Committee's comments on training matters in A/57/772, paras. 129 and 131).**

13. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon request, that in view of rapid technological advancement in the fields of information and communication technology there was a need to train mission personnel on a continuing basis. Such training would enable staff members to keep up to date with new technology and would facilitate the efficient installation, operation and maintenance of equipment and systems deployed in field missions. The installation and maintenance of information and communication technology equipment in field missions is done by staff members of the Communication and Information Technology Section of the Division of Administration rather than the equipment providers, owing to the ongoing nature of this kind of activity. Certain training courses are conducted in modules, so staff members who have participated in the first module will have to attend subsequent sessions in order to obtain complete and comprehensive training.

14. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was informed of the rates established for mission subsistence allowance for MINUCI. Effective 1 September 2003, based on the survey conducted in the mission area, the rates are $140 for the first 30 days and $122 after 30 days. The allowance is paid in United States dollars and is subject to review at regular intervals in the light of operational developments in the mission area.

15. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the estimate of $28,872,000 for MINUCI for the period from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. It is for the General Assembly to decide whether or not a special account will be established for MINUCI.**